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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava ORIGINAL DATE 3/01/07
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE "Read to a Child Day" SB SM 39
ANALYST Wilson

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 39 states that November 1, 2007 will be declared "Read to a Child Day" and that this day will become an annual celebration.

In addition, on November 1, 2007 every third-grader in New Mexico will be given a copy of "Santero's Miracle" by Rudolfo Anaya.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact to the State as a result of the provisions of this memorial. Private funds will be used to pay for the books and the distribution of the books to the approximately 26,000 third grade students.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A team of fourth and fifth-grade students at La Union elementary school in the Gadsden independent school district conducted a community literacy initiative and from what they learned, they wanted to give every third-grade student in New Mexico a book.

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This team of students began research on New Mexico authors, found over 40 authors, developed a rating rubric and narrowed their list down to 15.

The students contacted a group of adults who were representative of the state and invited them to be part of a selection committee using their rubric to narrow the list of books to six.

The students invited the governor to make a final decision on a book, and he selected "Santero's Miracle" by Rudolfo Anaya, with a copy to be given to each third-grade student.

The book will be accompanied by a web-based teacher curriculum and a hard copy of a parent curriculum that will be tied to the New Mexico curriculum standards.

The governor selected November 1, 2007 to distribute the books to every third-grade student.

November 1 marks national family literacy day and approximately 80,000 literacy programs will hold readings, workshops and family activities across the country.

Reading aloud is a time-honored tradition for parents, caregivers and children, especially in a child's formative years.

Reading has a lifelong impact on a child's learning experiences, developmental progress and even social interaction.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Senate Memorial 39 recognizes and promotes the importance of literacy at early childhood. Oral reading from teachers, parents or even peers has a positive impact on word recognition, fluency and comprehension. Stories have been shared as a means of preservation of history, culture and traditions and also have been used to teach, explain or to entertain. By listening to good models of fluent reading, students learn how a reader's voice can increase their knowledge of the world, their vocabulary, their familiarity with written language and their interest in reading.

DW/mt